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Jackson wants probe of CIA memo leak

By Monroe Anderson

THE REV. Jesse Jackson demanded Thursday that the Justice Department investigate how a secret Central Intelligence Agency memo that labeled him as a Libyan oil agent was obtained by the news media.

The Chicago-based civil rights leader also demanded that the CIA explain why he was the subject of a CIA inquiry and that it give him a copy of the memo.

The Rev. Mr. Jackson, head of Operation PUSH, made the demands in a news conference in PUSH headquarters.

Describing the CIA memo's accusations as "totally without foundation," the Rev. Mr. Jackson said, "I am not an agent of Libya or any foreign government or this government. I am an advocate of black business."

AS THE REV. Mr. Jackson spoke at the news conference, deputy Atty. Gen. Charles B. Renfrew, who was acting head of the Justice Department Thursday, issued this statement:

"Based on what the Department of Justice knows, there has been nothing unlawful about any of the actions of the Rev. Jesse Jackson in communicating with the Libyan government.

"A routine letter of inquiry will be sent to him, but he is not under investigation by the department."

The Rev. Mr. Jackson charged that the CIA memo's accusations and its leak to the news media constituted a plot by CIA "operatives" to "disrupt, discredit, and otherwise destroy black leadership."

He again acknowledged that he had written to Libya's Washington embassy on behalf of the Wallace Co., a black-owned oil company in Tuskegee, Ala. But he stressed that "We've not received any money from the oil company. We've not received any money from Libya on behalf of any oil deals."